

in order to break it. And the boats being well
manned and
prepared for the work, were immediately to
join them, and
use their best endeavours to cut the boom
asunder, and
haul the ships through ; and the evening was
judged most
proper to make the attack.

About seven in the evening of the same day
Captain Leake
in the ' Dartmouth * sailed towards the river,

followed by the victuallers, viz. the
Mountjoy of Deny
and the Phoenix of Coleraine, but under the
great dis-
advantage of having but little wind to
enable them to
pass the batteries, or carry them with any
force against
the boom.

When the ships had passed the castle, the
slight wind they
had had failed them; and a dead calm
succeeded, so that
the victuallers not having force to break the
boom recoiled,
and the ' Mountjoy ' ran stern foremost on
shore. By
great Providence, the shock of firing her guns
loosened her
so that by the help of the rising tide she got
clear, though
with the loss of Mr. Browning, her commander,
who was
killed by the enemy's shot.

In the meantime, the cannon of the
Dartmouth had done
great execution against the batteries* . . . and
whilst the
enemy were exulting with joy for the success
they seemed
to have over the Mountjoy, the boats' crews
got upon the
boom cut it asunder and hauled the Phoenix
through; and
soon after the Mountjoy followed. Captain
Leake continu-
ing the fight till he saw they had both got in

safety to the
city.¹

Various contemporary pieces of evidence
confirm the
story of the cutting of the boom. A
newsletter dated
August 12, 1689, reports that

¹ Life of Sir John Leake, L 24-29,